

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a wheeled load carrier or lorry provided with spring-closed pneumatically-opened brakes, said carrier being connectable to a motorized truck section, an anti-theft protection apparatus that when deployed inhibits the unlocking of air-release spring-operated wheel brakes of said carrier, said apparatus comprising:

a lockable air valve able to be inserted into a compressed air line connecting a source of compressed air to said brakes, wherein closure of said valve prevents air passage for release of said brakes and wherein opening of said valve allows passage for compressed air to release said brakes.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said compressed air line is a MAXI air line.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said air valve is mounted inside a lockable steel box resistant to forcible opening.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said valve is manually operated and wherein said valve is positioned for convenient access.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said valve is capable of being electrically operated by an electric motor, and wherein said valve is mounted on said carrier in a hidden location.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said valve is capable of being electrically operated by a solenoid, and wherein said valve is mounted on said carrier in a hidden location.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said valve is capable of being automatically activated when the air line is disconnected.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

a movable double piston having a first body and a second body free to move inside an air cylinder provided with inlet and outlet ports, wherein said piston bodies are interconnected by a piston rod;

at least one o-ring fitted to the piston to prevent air leakage;

a spring disposed within an underside of said piston; and

a solenoid opposite the underside of said piston.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said carrier is a semitrailer.

10. A conversion kit for retrofitting an anti-theft protection device to a carrier, said kit comprising:

a two-way lockable air valve with valve attachment hardware ;

tubing for connecting said air valve between an existing air inlet fitting and pneumatically operated brakes of said carrier;

tube fitting hardware; and

installation instructions.

11. A conversion kit for retrofitting an anti-theft protection device to a carrier, said kit comprising:

an openable, lockable steel case attachable to said carrier;

a two-way air valve contained in said case;

two tubing lengths extending through said case each ready connected at one end to said air valve;

tube fitting hardware; and

installation instructions.